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## **County Employment And Wages In Kentucky – First Quarter 2019**

Employment increased in 2 of Kentucky's 3 large counties from March 2018 to March 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2018.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the employment gain in Boone, KY, at 2.5 percent, was above the national average. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, employment advanced 1.4 percent from March 2018 to March 2019 as 298 of the 355 largest U.S. counties had increases. Midland, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment, with a gain of 5.8 percent. Bay, FL, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment, with a loss of 5.9 percent.

Among the three largest counties in Kentucky, employment was highest in Jefferson (466,400) in March 2019. Together, Kentucky's large counties accounted for 39.9 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 355 largest counties made up 73.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 146.5 million in March 2019.

Each of Kentucky's three large counties had over-the-year wage increases in the first quarter of 2019, with the largest gain in Fayette County (2.8 percent). Jefferson County (\$1,140) had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.8 percent over the year to \$1,184 in the first quarter of 2019. (See [table 1.](#))

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 117 counties in Kentucky with 2018 average annual employment levels below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from \$1,479 to \$546. (See [table 2.](#))

### **Large county wage changes**

In the first quarter of 2019, over-the-year weekly wage gains were at or above 2.0 percent for each of Kentucky's large counties. Fayette County was the only large county in Kentucky to have an over-the-year weekly wage gain place in the top half of the national ranking (2.8 percent; 153<sup>rd</sup>). (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, 325 of the 355 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage gain at 10.2 percent, followed by Bay, FL (9.3 percent).

Of the 355 largest counties, 28 experienced an over-the-year decrease in average weekly wages. Elkhart, IN, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-7.6 percent), followed by Olmsted, MN (-5.1 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Average weekly wages in each of Kentucky's three large counties were below the U.S. average of \$1,184. The average weekly wage in Jefferson County (\$1,140, 111<sup>th</sup>) placed in the top third of the national ranking. Average weekly wages in Fayette County (\$952, 235<sup>th</sup>), and Boone County (\$922, 269<sup>th</sup>) placed in the bottom half of the national ranking.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average (\$1,184) in 92 of the 355 largest counties in the first quarter of 2019. New York, NY, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,153, followed by San Francisco, CA (\$2,759), and Santa Clara, CA (\$2,758).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 263 had average weekly wages below the national average in the first quarter of 2019. Cameron, TX, reported the lowest wage (\$648), followed by Horry, SC (\$652), and Hidalgo, TX (\$662).

### **Average weekly wages in Kentucky's smaller counties**

Among the 117 counties in Kentucky—those with 2018 annual employment levels below 75,000—only Hancock (\$1,479) and Carroll (\$1,233) had average weekly wages above the national average of \$1,184. Nicholas County had the lowest wage in the state, averaging \$546 in the first quarter of 2019. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 120 counties in Kentucky were considered, 12 reported average weekly wages below \$600, 46 had average weekly wages from \$600 to \$699, 25 had wages from \$700 to \$799, 22 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 15 had wages above \$900. (See [chart 1](#).)

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2018 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2019 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from the 2018 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages* are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm).

**The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 4, 2019.**

### **QCEW Data Now Available in Census Business Builder Version 2.6**

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data is now available in Census Business Builder Version 2.6, a suite of U.S. Census Bureau web tools that assists business owners and regional analysts in data-driven decision making. As the first collaboration of this type between the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau, this data-sharing project makes data more accessible for local users and enhances the efficiency of digital service delivery. The Census Business Builder is available at: [www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html](http://www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html).

## Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/); however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 3 largest counties in Kentucky, first quarter 2019**

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	March 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2018-19 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, first quarter 2018-19 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	146,497.6	1.4	--	\$1,184	--	2.8	--
Kentucky .....	1,882.6	0.6	--	920	41	2.2	38
Boone, KY .....	93.7	2.5	43	922	269	2.0	227
Fayette, KY .....	191.5	0.0	299	952	235	2.8	153
Jefferson, KY .....	466.4	0.5	241	1,140	111	2.1	218

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Kentucky, first quarter 2019**

Area	Employment March 2019	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2) .....	146,497,599	\$1,184
Kentucky.....	1,882,613	920
Adair .....	4,461	621
Allen .....	4,569	706
Anderson .....	4,902	736
Ballard .....	1,504	920
Barren.....	16,393	692
Bath .....	1,921	722
Bell .....	8,228	644
Boone .....	93,663	922
Bourbon.....	6,756	808
Boyd .....	24,115	908
Boyle .....	14,171	758
Bracken .....	1,229	686
Breathitt.....	2,934	643
Breckinridge .....	3,421	637
Bullitt.....	25,539	761
Butler .....	2,891	708
Caldwell.....	4,156	667
Calloway .....	16,544	692
Campbell .....	30,070	859
Carlisle .....	976	635
Carroll.....	7,077	1,233
Carter .....	5,493	629
Casey .....	3,939	578
Christian .....	30,617	832
Clark .....	14,559	828
Clay .....	3,987	664
Clinton .....	3,885	565
Crittenden.....	1,952	623
Cumberland.....	1,853	686
Daviess.....	45,758	823
Edmonson .....	1,562	631
Elliott.....	930	595
Estill.....	2,223	665
Fayette .....	191,546	952
Fleming.....	3,221	680
Floyd.....	10,636	743
Franklin.....	30,809	854
Fulton .....	2,038	598
Gallatin .....	2,478	1,117
Garrard .....	2,197	675
Grant .....	4,841	803
Graves .....	11,241	739
Grayson.....	7,927	684
Green .....	1,717	614
Greenup .....	7,704	752
Hancock .....	4,098	1,479
Hardin.....	48,303	827
Harlan .....	6,190	706
Harrison.....	4,944	839
Hart.....	5,193	695
Henderson.....	18,972	847
Henry .....	2,827	721
Hickman .....	944	590
Hopkins .....	16,531	823
Jackson .....	1,639	629

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Kentucky, first quarter 2019 - Continued**

Area	Employment March 2019	Average Weekly Wage(1)
Jefferson .....	466,351	1,140
Jessamine .....	17,121	770
Johnson .....	5,072	668
Kenton .....	67,413	1,165
Knott .....	2,179	688
Knox .....	7,956	636
Larue .....	2,471	639
Laurel .....	26,432	697
Lawrence .....	3,423	671
Lee .....	1,647	661
Leslie .....	1,615	709
Letcher .....	4,363	679
Lewis .....	1,871	660
Lincoln .....	4,160	632
Livingston .....	2,418	892
Logan .....	9,023	834
Lyon .....	2,460	616
McCracken .....	37,660	837
McCreary .....	2,647	642
McLean .....	2,202	735
Madison .....	34,618	778
Magoffin .....	1,750	578
Marion .....	8,792	794
Marshall .....	11,006	972
Martin .....	2,408	817
Mason .....	8,475	801
Meade .....	4,338	725
Menifee .....	954	604
Mercer .....	6,379	973
Metcalfe .....	1,836	682
Monroe .....	3,171	628
Montgomery .....	10,349	763
Morgan .....	2,994	665
Muhlenberg .....	8,380	801
Nelson .....	16,352	791
Nicholas .....	848	546
Ohio .....	7,771	699
Oldham .....	15,994	870
Owen .....	1,322	795
Owsley .....	670	560
Pendleton .....	2,292	785
Perry .....	11,343	758
Pike .....	20,643	831
Powell .....	2,584	587
Pulaski .....	25,802	693
Robertson .....	292	564
Rockcastle .....	3,786	638
Rowan .....	10,224	695
Russell .....	5,588	625
Scott .....	26,708	974
Shelby .....	16,158	806
Simpson .....	9,038	793
Spencer .....	2,048	629
Taylor .....	12,042	635
Todd .....	2,262	612
Trigg .....	3,074	601

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Kentucky, first quarter 2019 - Continued**

Area	Employment March 2019	Average Weekly Wage(1)
Trimble.....	1,138	1,038
Union .....	5,069	917
Warren .....	65,082	826
Washington.....	3,397	735
Wayne .....	5,666	575
Webster .....	3,093	1,009
Whitley.....	11,738	722
Wolfe .....	1,250	549
Woodford .....	9,199	820

Footnotes

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2019**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	March 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2018-19	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2018-19	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup>	146,497.6	1.4	\$1,184	--	2.8	--
Alabama	1,978.0	1.6	944	38	2.5	32
Alaska	312.4	0.3	1,108	18	3.3	9
Arizona	2,895.1	2.5	1,056	22	3.0	21
Arkansas	1,218.5	0.7	896	45	2.2	38
California	17,436.4	1.8	1,401	5	3.8	4
Colorado	2,690.3	1.9	1,231	9	4.8	2
Connecticut	1,650.6	0.0	1,487	4	2.3	34
Delaware	444.1	1.3	1,199	13	-0.1	51
District of Columbia	773.5	0.5	1,921	1	0.2	49
Florida	8,894.3	2.1	1,015	26	2.7	25
Georgia	4,488.6	2.1	1,121	17	2.6	28
Hawaii	658.1	-0.4	1,006	27	3.4	8
Idaho	732.3	2.7	828	50	2.3	34
Illinois	5,912.0	0.1	1,275	8	2.7	25
Indiana	3,059.1	1.2	963	33	0.9	48
Iowa	1,527.1	0.1	942	39	2.3	34
Kansas	1,379.3	0.6	940	40	3.2	12
Kentucky	1,882.6	0.6	920	41	2.2	38
Louisiana	1,916.8	-0.1	954	34	2.5	32
Maine	599.8	1.2	919	42	3.1	16
Maryland	2,670.3	0.9	1,228	10	1.7	45
Massachusetts	3,558.1	1.1	1,561	3	3.5	7
Michigan	4,307.4	0.6	1,078	20	0.1	50
Minnesota	2,840.8	0.5	1,203	12	2.3	34
Mississippi	1,129.8	0.4	779	51	1.8	43
Missouri	2,788.4	0.5	986	31	2.6	28
Montana	458.8	0.9	844	49	3.1	16
Nebraska	965.6	0.1	917	43	2.2	38
Nevada	1,392.2	3.0	992	29	1.5	47
New Hampshire	656.2	1.2	1,156	15	3.1	16
New Jersey	4,040.2	1.3	1,399	6	1.7	45
New Mexico	825.4	1.3	890	47	3.2	12
New York	9,453.5	1.5	1,639	2	2.6	28
North Carolina	4,458.5	2.0	1,054	23	3.2	12
North Dakota	414.3	1.5	1,021	25	3.3	9
Ohio	5,363.2	0.7	1,035	24	3.0	21
Oklahoma	1,617.0	1.1	953	35	4.3	3
Oregon	1,921.9	1.3	1,060	21	3.3	9
Pennsylvania	5,850.3	1.1	1,146	16	2.8	24
Rhode Island	474.7	0.8	1,104	19	1.8	43
South Carolina	2,110.0	2.0	901	44	3.0	21
South Dakota	419.0	0.4	865	48	2.7	25
Tennessee	3,004.2	2.0	996	28	1.9	42
Texas	12,455.6	2.2	1,204	11	3.1	16
Utah	1,501.4	3.0	978	32	3.1	16
Vermont	309.1	0.4	950	36	3.7	5
Virginia	3,896.9	1.2	1,186	14	2.1	41
Washington	3,371.1	1.8	1,368	7	4.9	1
West Virginia	687.1	0.3	896	45	3.2	12
Wisconsin	2,838.9	0.1	992	29	2.6	28
Wyoming	269.0	1.9	948	37	3.7	5
Puerto Rico	875.8	2.2	553	(3)	-2.1	(3)
Virgin Islands	36.6	9.6	966	(3)	-1.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.



Footnotes:

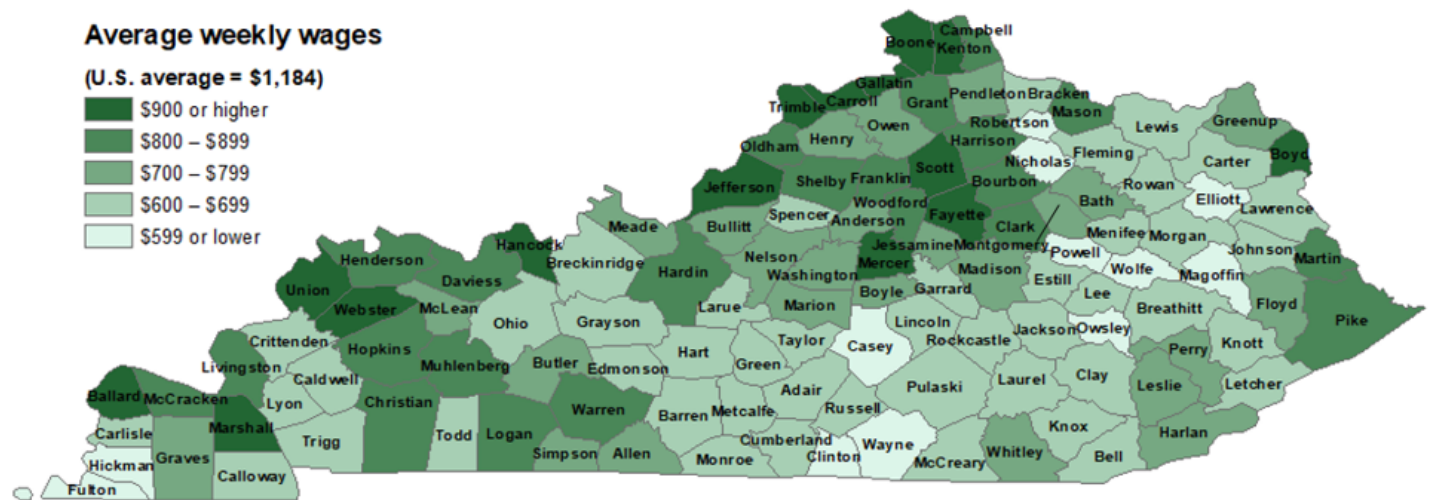
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Kentucky, first quarter 2019**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.